

Sorry, you have no edge in the nickel mart

By Roger Boye

Here are answers to more questions from Chicago Tribune readers.

Q—I got in change a 1964 nickel with a grooved edge (like a dime) rather than a smooth edge as is normal for nickels. What happened?

Y. H., Chicago

A—Most likely, someone working in a machine shop doctored your coin. It has no collector value.

Q—How much should I expect to pay for some Indian-head pennies to give to my grandchildren?

N. B., Arlington Heights

A—Common-date specimens—such as those made in Philadelphia between 1900 and 1908—sell for 50 to 75 cents each if in “good condition.” Most of the other coins are worth more, especially the 1877; it goes for nearly \$200 in “good condition.”

Uncirculated (“mint state”) Indian heads retail for \$20 on up, depending on the date and other factors.

Q—Someone drilled a hole in my 1882 silver dollar, apparently so that it could be worn on a chain. What might the coin be

worth today?

Y. P., Cicero

A—About \$4 for its silver. Most holed coins have little collector value. Nicks, deep scratches or gouges also make coins less desirable on the hobby market.

Q—Is there any simple way to tell if my old half dollars have

silver? When was silver-removed from half dollars?

W. E., Chicago

A—Look at the edges of your coins. Copper-nickel clad halves—produced since 1971—have a pure copper core that appears red-brown. They contain no silver.